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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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OCT 20 2004

[GROUP 3600]

In re Application of: BOYLE, Terence, et al.
Application No. 09/535,877
Filed: March 28, 2000
For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CENTRALIZED
AUTOMATED RECONCILIATION OF CUSTODY
ACCOUNTS**
Examiner: Chencinski, Siegfried E.
Group Art Unit: 3628

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The Amendment is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 14, 2004. A Request for Continued Examination and fee are being filed herewith.

The Final Office Action for this application was issued January 14, 2004, setting a three-month period for response which expired on April 14, 2004, absent an extension of time. On July 14, 2004, Applicants filed a timely Notice of Appeal with a request and fee for a three months extension of time extending the period for response to July 14, 2004. An Appeal Brief was therefore due by September 14, 2004, absent an extension of time. A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith in lieu of an Appeal Brief, together with a request for a one month extension of time to October 14, 2004. Accordingly, this application is pending today, and the Request for Continued Examination and this Amendment are timely filed.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.